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Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes
Senator Tom Casperson, Chair

RE: Ducks Unlimited Concerns on SB 1052

Dear Chairman Casperson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns regarding Senate Bill 1052. Ducks Unlimited represents approximately 27,000 members in Michigan – citizens who care about wetlands, waterfowl, public access as well as private landowners and their rights.

Ducks Unlimited is of the opinion that this legislation is unnecessary. Five years ago, members of the conservation community, shoreline landowners, beach groomers, state and federal agencies, tribes, and other citizen, environmental, and conservation groups all deliberated together on this issue. Those negotiations created a General Permit (GP) program at very little cost to applicants, allowed access to the lake, and use of beaches in low water level periods, while maintaining shallow water wetlands important to fish and waterfowl.

To date this GP has been extremely successful. Data from DEQ reveals that they have issued 95 percent of the GP applications. Only 1 permit applicant was denied. Of the public notice applications, only 3 were denied. From what has been published by shoreline organizations, it appears that the GP has been working, successful and beneficial.

Our position is to not support S 1052, and to encourage the Committee to work with the Administration and Michigan DEQ to continue the General Permit for Shoreline Grooming. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further thoughts and suggestions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gildo Tori
Director of Public Policy